

APPLICATION

What is your God-given grace gift?

If you are a believer in Christ, then you definitely have at least one.

If you are unsure, spend some time praying and reading through some of the passages we discussed today. Perhaps ask a few people who know you very well and a few who recently know you.

If you know your gift, are you using it for the service of the church?

Are you using it to build God's Kingdom?

Are you using it to love your neighbor?

Take some time this week to read through **Luke 10:25-37**, better known as the story of **the Good Samaritan**.

The story is an answer to a simple question: "Who is my neighbor?"

Pay close attention, as if you are reading it for the very first time.

What is the first response of the Samaritan?

What does he give?

How does he first serve the man?

What does he give next?

How does he serve next?

What is the last thing he gave? (v.35)

How would Jesus' teaching in **Luke 10** translate into your life?

SEASON
OF GIVING

giving
YOUR GIFTS

GIVING YOUR GIFTS

1 Peter 4:7-11

Since we each have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us...

Romans 12:6

But to each one of you is given the manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift...for the equipping of the saints for the work of service...

Ephesians 4:7,12

The first letter of Peter is a marvelous book. It was written by the apostle Peter, one of Jesus' best friends. Tradition almost unanimously agrees that Peter was martyred in Rome, probably around AD 67 within the great persecution of Nero. This first epistle of Peter may have been written about AD 64.

Suffering for one's faith is a central theme in the letter, as are end times, community, holiness and relationship to the world.

Our text today falls at the transition point between two major sections of the letter and bridges discussion of *the responsibilities of individual Christians (2:11-4:11)* and the *responsibilities of the community of Christians (4:12-5:11)*.

4:7-8—Christ's return is imminent. One's view of the end ought to have definite implications for life in the present. This is never more true than for the Christian. The sure reality and truth of our end in Christ, as well as the end of the world at large, should lead us to level-headed judgment and clear-minded action.

Prayer is a central activity of the Christian. It's role is even more critical and relevant as we remember the imminence of the end.

Our unwavering and non-fickle love for one another enables us to bear the weight of sins committed against us. Our love for the body of Christ has the power to defuse family fights and wounds.

4:9-10—This single sentence is the heart of the passage.

God's magnificent grace is gifted to us as stewards. As many unique and beautiful gifts as there are fingerprints have been gifted to the church. Each of us have a responsibility to employ these gifts for ministry. We are each servants. Ministers! No Christian can ever say that they have nothing to offer.

Our actions of hospitality, love, service, speech, etc. demonstrate our heart of gratitude at Christ's gift.

4:11—Taking two general categories of the gifts God gives—speaking and serving—Peter reminds us that the ultimate end of our gifts and their service is the glory of God. He deserves it all.